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Hesperiidae of Vietnam, 13¹
A new species and a new subspecies of *Potanthus* SCUDDER, 1872
from Vietnam and Burma

(Lepidoptera, Hesperiidae)

by

A. L. DEVYATKIN

received 28.IV.2003

Summary: A new species, *Potanthus eugenius* spec. nov., and a new subspecies, *Potanthus tibetana laocai* subsp. nov., are described and illustrated. Both taxa seem to be rather peculiar in the combination of their external features and genitalia.

Potanthus tibetana laocai subsp. nov.

(colour plate Xa, figs. 1, 2)

Holotype ♂: North Vietnam, Lao Cai Province, Hoang Lien Nature Reserve, 2.VIII.1998, FRONTIER leg. (F.T.V.).

Description

Wings rather broad and rounded.

Upside (col. pl. Xa, fig. 1). Markings yellow. Forewing: base of wing with yellow scales; costal and cell areas yellow to space 10, with a long black stripe along upper half of cell; discal yellow band narrow, with irregular inner and outer margins; subapical spots narrowly separated from the band. Space 1a yellow in the median third. Sex-brand over vein 1 short, just entering the yellow band. Hindwing: discal band rather narrow with its outer margin serrate along veins, continued into space 6; spot in space 7 narrowly separated; a distinct rounded spot in cell. Fringes predominantly brown on forewing, predominantly yellow on hindwing.

Underside (col. pl. Xa, fig. 2). Forewing: markings yellow; cell and costal areas with diffuse black stripes along subcosta and radius; space 1a and bases of spaces 1b to 4 black; subapical spots conjoined to the discal band. Hindwing: ground colour greenish-yellow; discal band much paler, outlined with black; dorsum and tornus densely suffused with yellow scales along veins and wing margin. Fringes of both wings predominantly yellow, pure yellow in the tornal area of the hindwing.

Length of forewing 15.5 mm.

♂-genitalia (fig. 1). Uncus very broad (as in *P. palnia* (EVANS, 1914)), its distal half extended and shallowly excavate between almost rectangular and somewhat rounded shoulders. Cuiller of clasp short and pointed, curved in the distal part. Aedeagus longer than clasp, expanded in

¹ For (12) see DEVYATKIN, A. L. & A. L. MONASTYRSKII (2002): A further contribution to the Hesperiidae fauna of North and Central Vietnam. – *Atalanta* 33 (1/2): 133–151.

Buchbesprechung

Eigenverlag Manfred Dietz, Solms 2002

DIETZ, M.: Pieridae, *Colias* FABRICIUS 1807, Arten und Unterarten aus der Palaearktischen Region – Species and subspecies of the palaearctic region, Teil 1/n Part 1., 2. Ausgabe, 2. Edition, 152 Seiten mit 69 Verbreitungskarten, distribution maps, 1022 farbigen Abbildungen und 71 Biotopaufnahmen, 21,5 × 30 cm, fester, abwischbarer, farbiger Einband, € 165,-; Herstellung und Vertrieb: MANFRED DIETZ, Sophienstrasse 6, D-35606 Solms (Lieferzeit ca. 4 Wochen, da Einzelherstellung nach der Bestellung erfolgt).

Sein Buch beschreibt und beurteilt der Autor selbst wie folgt: „Die Gattung *Colias* enthält eine Fülle von Arten, die besonders farbenprächtig sind und sich daher bei Entomologen großer Beliebtheit erfreuen. Das Hauptverbreitungsgebiet im palaearktischen Raum liegt ohne Zweifel in Mittelasien und in den Provinzen Gansu, Qinghai und Tibet. Nach Westen und Osten nimmt die Zahl der Arten beträchtlich ab.

Die Falter fliegen je nach Witterungsbedingungen in einer oder mehreren Generationen von Meereshöhe bis in Höhenlagen von 5000 m. Als Futterpflanze dienen unter anderem verschiedene Fabaceae, Ericaceae und Vaccinium Arten.

Mit diesem Buch soll dem interessierten Entomologen ein Überblick über die Vielfalt der Arten und Unterarten innerhalb des Genus *Colias* verschafft werden. Der Schwerpunkt liegt dabei auf den Abbildungen und den Verbreitungskarten. Es wird nicht der Anspruch erhoben, ein „wissenschaftliches“ Werk vorzulegen. So wird z. B. die Berechtigung vieler Unterarten nicht weiter geprüft und umstrittenen taxonomische Fragen werden ausgeklammert. Das Ziel ist einfach, jenen Entomologen, die nicht unbedingt an einer fundierten wissenschaftlichen Analyse interessiert sind, einen ersten Überblick über die Vielfalt der *Colias*-Arten zu verschaffen.“

Von DIETZ wird jedoch in der Tat ein sehr sehenswertes und empfehlenswertes Kompendium über alle 56 *Colias*-Arten der Palaearktis der Öffentlichkeit vorgelegt, das ich für sehr gelungen halte – es ist sogar als Taschen- und Feldführer zu gebrauchen, das alle notwendigen Informationen über jedes Taxon parat hält (Autor, Beschreibungsjahr, Urbeschreibungszitat, Locus typicus, Verbreitung, Flugzeit, Synonymie). DIETZ äußert auch in vielen Fällen seine eigene Meinung über den eine oder anderen Problemfall, was einer wissenschaftlichen Analyse nahe kommt. Umso angenehmer empfinde ich die Bescheidenheit der Worte von DIETZ über sein eigenes Werk. Der Text ist durchgehend zweisprachig in Deutsch und in Englisch.

Wer bei der Betrachtung der Abbildungen und des Gesamtwerkes keine Lust „auf mehr *Colias*“ bekommt, ist wirklich bedauernswert. Auch ich kann mir vorstellen, hier jetzt intensiver zu arbeiten, fehlte mir für diese Gattung bisher einfach der „Habitusblick“, um die Fülle der Arten ohne Schwierigkeit annähernd sicher bestimmen zu können, unsere mitteleuropäischen Arten ausgenommen.

Belohnen Sie alle aus dem Leserkreis der ATALANTA den enormen Fleiß und das entomologische Engagement von DIETZ durch zahlreiche Bestellungen. Kein Besteller wird es zu bereuen haben.

ULF EITSCHBERGER

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Underside (col. pl. Xa, fig. 2). Forewing: markings yellow; cell and costal areas with diffuse black stripes along subcosta and radius; space 1a and bases of spaces 1b to 4 black; subapical spots conjoined to the discal band. Hindwing: ground colour greenish-yellow; discal band much paler, outlined with black; dorsum and tornus densely suffused with yellow scales along veins and wing margin. Fringes of both wings predominantly yellow, pure yellow in the tornal area of the hindwing.

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the median part. Juxta with a central projection and rather long basal processes. Sacculus long and narrow, rounded at the end.

Discussion

At first glance, the general appearance, viz., size, colour, wing shape and pattern of the insect resembles that of *P. palnia* and *P. flava alcon* (EVANS, 1932), being however different from both in the slightly paler yellow coloration and the hindwing discal band continued into space 6. The shape of the clasp is similar to that of *P. lydia* (EVANS, 1934); the shape of the uncus seems to be unique in the genus, remotely resembling that of *P. fettingi* (MÖSCHLER, 1878).

This taxon was ready to be described as a new species when I received a paper by HUANG (2002) with the description of a new species, *Potanthus tibetana* HUANG, 2002, from a series of 15 specimens from S.E. Tibet. Judging from the photographs of the genitalia of several males given by the author, *P. tibetana* is more similar to my specimen than any other species of the genus is, displaying at the same time great variation in the shape of uncus and clasp.

Therefore, although species rank is still not excluded for the specimen from Lao Cai, I found it possible that it could fall within the variation of *P. tibetana*, being remote from the typical population.

The main differences from nominate *P. tibetana* are smaller size (forewing length 15.5 mm against 16.5 mm in *P. tibetana*), paler colour of the yellow pattern which is more extended, especially in the basal part of forewing; hindwing upperside band is continued into space 6; tornal area of the underside is densely suffused with yellow (blackish in the nominate *P. tibetana*). In male genitalia, the uncus is conspicuously extended towards the end (almost parallel-sided in the nominate subspecies), with its shoulders more angled.

Potanthus eugenius spec. nov. (colour plate Xa, figs. 3, 4)

Holotype ♂: North Burma, Cachin State, Indawgyi Lake, 400 m, 25.III.1997 (E. TARASOV leg.).

Description

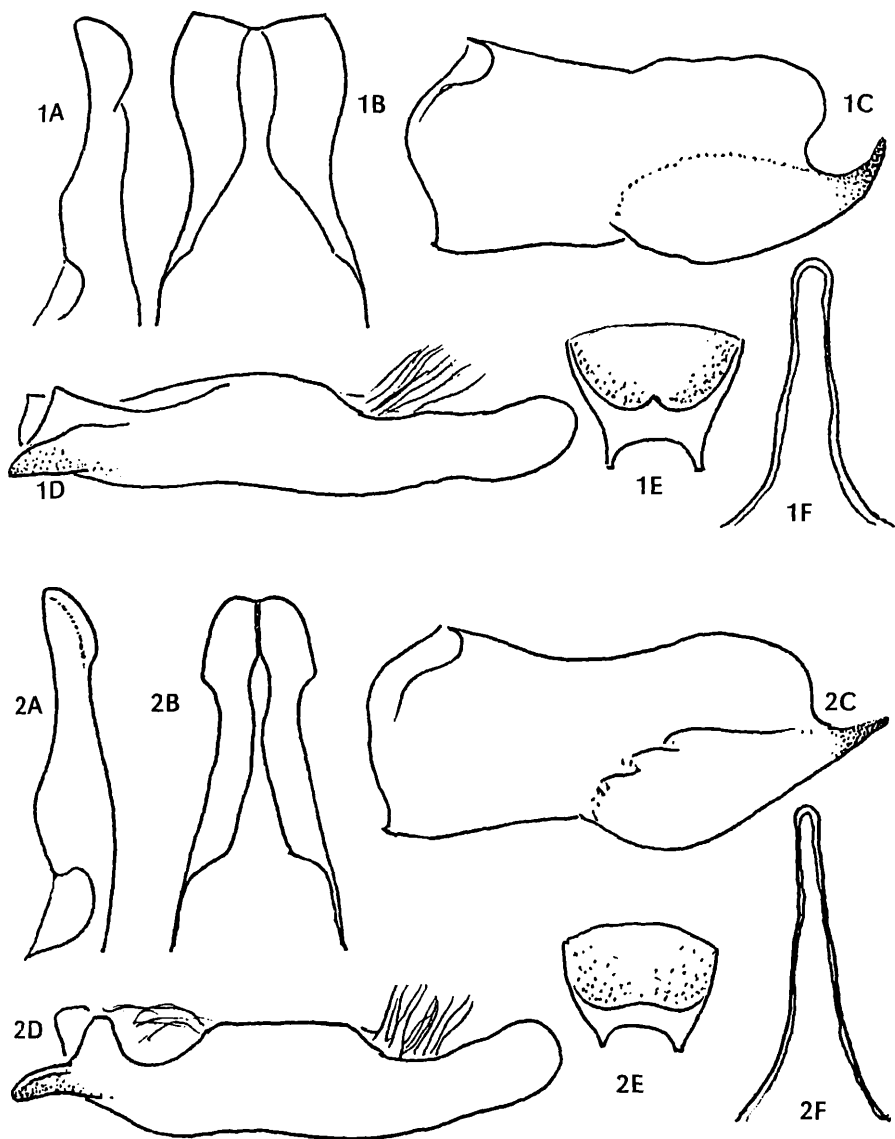
Forewing termen rather straight and apex acute.

Upperside (col. pl. Xa, fig. 3). Markings dark yellow. Forewing: base of wing with yellow scales; costal and cell areas entirely yellow to space 9, except black veins and diffuse dark area at base of cell; yellow discal band broad, with irregular margins, equal in width to the black marginal field; subapical spots conjoined to the band; space 1a yellow in the median third. Sex-brand over vein 1 unusually long, about $\frac{1}{3}$ of dorsum, reaching the middle of the yellow band. Hindwing: discal band broad and irregular to space 5, with a small triangle in space 6; spot in space 7 rather large and detached, equal in size to the round spot in cell.

Underside (col. pl. Xa, fig. 4). Yellow markings dark, with a reddish tinge. Forewing: space 1a and bases of cell and spaces 1b to 3 black. Hindwing: cell and discal markings slightly paler than the ground colour, outlined by diffuse black shades; dorsum and tornal area black except a narrow yellow stripe along vein 1a.

Fringes of both wings yellow, dark chequered in the median and apical parts.

Length of forewing 15 mm.



Figs. 1, 2: Male genitalia of *Potanthus* SCUDDER, 1872 (A – uncus, lateral view; B – id., ventral view; C – right clasp, inner view; D – aedeagus, lateral view; E – juxta, ventral view; F – sacculus, dorsal view).

Fig. 1 – *P. tibetana laocai* subsp. nov., holotype; Fig. 2 – *P. eugenius* spec. nov., holotype.

♂-genitalia (fig. 2). Uncus relatively narrow, evenly tapered from the base, then abruptly extended at the end; its tip slightly excavate between the rounded shoulders. Dorso-distal part of clasp not produced; cuiller short, pointed and curved inwards in the distal part. Aedeagus as long as clasp, expanded in the median part, with a conspicuous beak-like ventral projection at the distal end. Juxta with a sclerotized basal part. Sacculus long and narrow, tapered to the rounded end.

Discussion

The general wing pattern is somewhat similar to that of *P. pava* (FRUHSTORFER, 1911), and *P. confucius* (C. & R. FELDER, 1862) (except for more acute wings), the yellow colour being slightly darker; however, there is no spot in space 6 on hindwing. The underside ground colour and pattern look very peculiar. The length of the sex-brand is only comparable with that of *P. pallida* (EVANS, 1932) which is quite dissimilar in other characters.

The general shape of the clasp resembles that of *P. pallida* and *P. palnia* (the cuiller being longer and more robust in both); the shape of the uncus does not seem to be similar to that of any other species in the genus.

Acknowledgements

I am deeply grateful to EUGENY A. TARASOV (Moscow) and the FRONTIER organization (London) for placing these unique specimen at my disposal; special thanks are to Mr. PHILLIP R. ACKERY (The Natural History Museum, London) for giving the opportunity to study the types of the genus *Potanthus* deposited in the museum.

References

HUANG, H. (2002): Some new butterflies from China – 2 (Lepidoptera, HesperIIDae). – *Atalanta* **33** (1/2): 109–122.

Explanation of colour plate Xa (p. 273):

Fig. 1: *Potanthus tibetana laocai* subsp. nov., holotype ♂. North Vietnam, Lao Cai Province, Hoang Lien Nature Reserve, 2.VIII.1998, FRONTIER leg. (F.T.V.), upperside.

Fig. 2: Id., underside.

Fig. 3: *Potanthus eugenius* spec. nov., holotype ♂. North Burma, Cachin State, Indawgyi Lake, 400 m, 25.III.1997, E. TARASOV leg., upperside.

Fig. 4: Id., underside.

1	2
3	4

Address of the author

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Colour plate Xa

DEVYATKIN, A. L.: Hesperiiidae of Vietnam, 13. A new species and a new subspecies of *Potanthus* SCUDDER, 1872 from Vietnam and Burma (Lepidoptera, Hesperiiidae). – *Atalanta* **34** (1/2): 111–114.

Fig. 1: *Potanthus tibetana laocai* subsp. nov., holotype ♂. North Vietnam, Lao Cai Province, Hoang Lien Nature Reserve, 2.VIII.1998, FRON-TIER leg. (F.T.V.), upperside.

Fig. 2: Id., underside.

Fig. 3: *Potanthus eugenius* spec. nov., holotype ♂. North Burma, Cachin State, Indawgyi Lake, 400 m, 25.III.1997, E. TARASOV leg., upperside.

Fig. 4: Id., underside.

1	2
3	4

Colour plate Xb

DEVYATKIN, A. L.: Hesperiiidae of Vietnam, 14. A new species of the genus *Celaenorrhinus* HÜBNER, 1819 (Lepidoptera, Hesperiiidae). – *Atalanta* **34** (1/2): 115–118.

Fig. 1: *Celaenorrhinus victor* spec. nov., holotype ♂. Cuc Phuong National Park, 2.IV.1998, LE TRONG DAT leg., upperside.

Fig. 2: Id., underside.

Fig. 3: *Celaenorrhinus victor* spec. nov., paratype ♀. Cuc Phuong, 24.III. 1998, VU VAN LIEN leg., upperside.

Fig. 4: Id., underside.

1	2
3	4

Colour plate Xc

DEVYATKIN, A. L. & A. L. MONASTYRSKII: Hesperiiidae of Vietnam, 15. New records of Hesperiiidae from southern Vietnam (Lepidoptera, Hesperiiidae). – *Atalanta* **34** (1/2): 119–133.

Fig. 1: *Pyroneura callineura natalia* subsp. nov., holotype ♂, Cat Tien Nature Reserve, 10.V.2001, A. L. MONASTYRSKII leg., upperside.

Fig. 2: Id., underside.

1	2

Colour plate Xa-c

